THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) It is a fact that institutions have been mushrooming in the area of computer education all over the country,

(b) The Government have a scheme to ensure quality standards in Private Computer Training Institutes by accrediting institutes in the non-formal sector for 4 level of courses namely O (Foundation Level), A (Advanced Diploma), B (MCA), C (M-Tech) based on laid down quality standards in the non-formal sector.

(c) Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses (DOEACC) Society, an autonomous body of Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India, is implementing a Joint Scheme of Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) and all India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). This Society is responsible for granting accreditation to such institutions for each level.

De-recognition of SADR

* 177. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister *of* EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has, recently, de-recognised the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR);

(b) if so, the date on which the SADR was recognised;

(c) what were the compelling reasons for the de-recognition; and

(d) the number of cases, if any, when *India* de-recognised a foreign Government after having recognised it?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 1 October 1985.

(c) Since our recognition of the SADR in 1985, the situation had remained under constant review. In 1993, we had withdrawn the concurrent accreditation to the SADR of our Ambassador in Algiers. Thereafter, the agreement to the appointment of a SADR Ambassador was withheld since 1994. The latest decision was based on an objective assessment of relevant trends and facts, including our overall support for the UN efforts. Maintaining our recognition of SADR was tantamount to ignoring ground realities and pre-judging the final outcome of referendum, if and when it takes place.

(d) Government has in the past recognised new successor states in a number of cases. Formal de-recognition of the SADR, was however carried out without according recognition to any successor state.

IT Ministers Conference

* 178. SHRI BJ. PANDA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the Information Technology Ministers of the States was held by him recently and whether any resolution was adopted on e-commerce and on software export;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and suggestions made; and

(c) the action taken for implementing the resolution?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) A meeting of State IT Ministers was held on 15/7/2000 wherein 14 Chief Ministers also attended. The agenda for the meeting was as below:

(a) IT for Masses

(b) IT Education in Schools, Colleges and Universities

(c) E-Commerce

(d) Right of Way

(e) IT Enabled Services

(f) Permitting software industry in their residential localities of Urban area.

After comprehensive and detailed deliberations, a Common Action Plan has been drawn as at Statement.

Statement

First National Conference of IT Ministers

Common Action Plan to promote IT in India

The first-ever National Conference of IT Ministers was held in New Delhi today, July 15, 2000. The Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, inaugurated the Conference, in which as many as fourteen Ministers of various States also participated.